

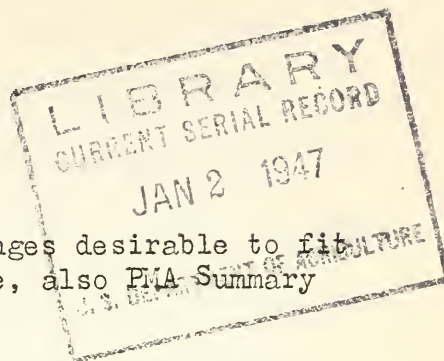
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Resume
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Production and Marketing Admin.
Information Service
821 Market Street, Room 609
San Francisco, California
Western Area

Approx. Time 15 minutes
November 6, 1946

YOUR FAMILY'S FOOD
(Weekly Script No. 135)



(Time all scripts in advance. Suggest you make any changes desirable to fit script to local picture. News releases from this office, also PMA Summary are good sources of additional material.)

SUBJECT: 1945-1946 EXPORTS

PARTICIPANTS: Announcer
PMA

RANGING OF GAVEL

ANNOUNCER: Your Family's Food? This is YOUR program, brought to you by the United States Department of Agriculture...YOUR program to keep you up to date on the many factors that influence YOUR food supply.

And the man who has the answers to your questions...and mine.... is your Production and Marketing Administration representative, Mr. _____. And what holds the top spot on our program today, _____?

PMA: Now that we are finishing another excellent harvest season, I thought we might sum up what we've done during the past year in the way of sharing our bounty with the hungry peoples of the world.

ANNCR: A fine thought, _____! Perhaps we can sit down to our Thanksgiving table with more appetite if we know that through our efforts we have provided some family overseas with a more adequate diet.

PMA: And believe me, _____ our efforts have not been inconsiderable. A great deal of credit should go to the farmers of this country who answered the call for large amounts of food and to all those who cooperated loyally throughout the program.

ANNCR: I well remember when the emergency relief program got under way....it was around the first of this year, wasn't it?

PMA: That's right. We all realized that countries in Europe and Asia would need some help after the war, but the full extent of food requirements was not recognized until about January and February. Then it was seen that conditions in Europe were much worse than had been expected--and droughts in the Mediterranean and Danube basins, and in South Africa and India aggravated the world food crisis.

ANNCR: And so the hungry nations looked to America to supply most of the needed food....Well, just how much food have we sent abroad?

PMA: During the 12-month period between July 1, 1945 to June 30, 1946, we exported more than 17 million long tons of foodstuffs. Or.... to put it a different way...it would take four freight trains stretching all the way from San Francisco to New York to carry that food at one time.

ANNCR: That sounds like a whale of a lot of food to me!

PMA: From our standpoint--the standpoint of the exporter--it was. Our total overseas food shipments during this year were more than four times as great as the 1935-39 average. But this figure might be understood better if we look at it from the standpoint of what it meant to the people receiving the food.

ANNCR: For instance?

PMA: For instance these total food exports were sufficient to provide some 250 million persons with 500 calories per day for a period of 12 months.

ANNOUNCER: That should have been a help, anyway.

the first thing I did was to go to the bank and

get some money out of the safe.

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PMA: Indeed it was--and particularly in countries where the average food consumption was below 22 hundred calories--this supplement to the diet often meant the difference between life and death.

ANNCR: 22 hundred calories a day, ~~hmm~~? That's pretty low, isn't it?

PMA: For an answer to that, I'll quote from a Food and Agriculture Organization report. This report stated: "A daily supply of 22 hundred calories at the retail level is regarded as an emergency subsistence food consumption level needed to prevent the most serious under-nutrition leading to disease and unrest."

ANNOUNCER: How does this bare minimum compare to the food consumption in the United States?

PMA: The available supply of calories in this country from 1945 to 1946 amounted to 33 hundred a day for each person.

ANNCR: That's quite a difference!

PMA: And it's a dangerous difference. President Truman along with leaders in world health and nutrition have repeatedly emphasized that peace cannot be built in a world half fed and half starving.

ANNCR: And so it was in the interest of peace--as well as for humanitarian purposes--that America contributed a large share of the total relief shipments?

PMA: Right. If in war, America was the "arsenal of democracy" -- then in the first year of reconstruction she could be considered as the storehouse of peace.

ANNCR: That's a good comparison, _____, since I understand that we were able to make the largest food contributions.

PMA: True—but don't forget that we were in a more favorable position than most other nations. Other countries, through UNRRA, provided all they could for the starving areas.

ANNCR: Most of the United States' total food exports were made through UNRRA, weren't they?

PMA: Yes, of the 17 million tons sent abroad, a good deal more than 3 and a half million were received by UNRRA for distribution.

ANNCR: Where did the rest of it go?

PMA: Well, France and French North Africa got the next largest amount—some 2 and a half million tons—then the United Kingdom and British Services Overseas received more than a million tons. Other countries got smaller shipments of food.

ANNCR: I suppose a certain amount of food was needed in our occupation zones for civilian feeding?

PMA: Yes. Nearly 3 million tons of food went for civilian feeding by our military in Europe, and more than 400 thousand tons for this purpose in the Far East.

ANNCR: With all this food going out of the country, it doesn't seem as if there could have been much left for our civilians—and yet I know we didn't go hungry...a little less flour, bread...oils...But the dinner table was always full!

PMA: Well, you see, _____, 17 million tons of exported food sounds like a lot—but it amounted to slightly less than 13 per cent of the total tonnage of food available to the American public between July 1945 and the end of June 1946. Civilians in this country received more than 83 per cent of that total.

ANNCR: Well I guess that explains why we ate so well.

PMA: And you did eat well. Believe it or not, the civilian per capita consumption of all foods in this period was 14 per cent above the 1935-39 average. However, the consumption of certain foods--those needed for famine relief--was quite a bit below the prewar average.

ANNCR: You mean we ate less of things like wheat, fats and oils....?

PMA: Yes--but we more than made up the difference by substituting abundant foods--vegetables and fruits--which could not easily be shipped abroad.

ANNCR: I can see how it would be easier to ship bulk foods, like grain, all right.

PMA: And it is foods such as cereals, dairy products, and fats and oils which play the most important part in combating hunger in the famine-stricken areas. However, we also exported considerable quantities of other foods...dry beans and peas, fish, eggs, fruits, vegetables, including potatoes, sugar and meat.

ANNCR: But still wheat and flour made up the largest part of our shipments, didn't they?

PMA: Yes, our exports of more than 10 million tons of wheat and flour during this 12-month period are the largest on record--ten times the average annual exports during 1935-39. But when I said that cereals were one of the important hunger-fighting foods -- I meant other grains and grain products, as well. For example, our substantial shipments of corn were an important addition to the diets of countries which customarily use this product as food. And rice.....

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ANNCR: Rice? I didn't think the United States produced enough rice to make much of an impression in a real food crisis.

PMA: We don't normally. Our production, as a rule, constitutes less than 1 per cent of the world's rice supplies. But the world rice crop in 1945-46 was 20 per cent below prewar--thus leaving the peoples of India, China--and Japan--with a critical food shortage. In an effort to meet this need, the United States quadrupled its rice exports--and also diverted large amounts of wheat to those countries normally dependent on rice as a staple.

ANNCR: Well, I doubt if folks here missed the rice we exported very much-- But meat, now, that's a different thing--and fats and oils...we all felt the shortage there.

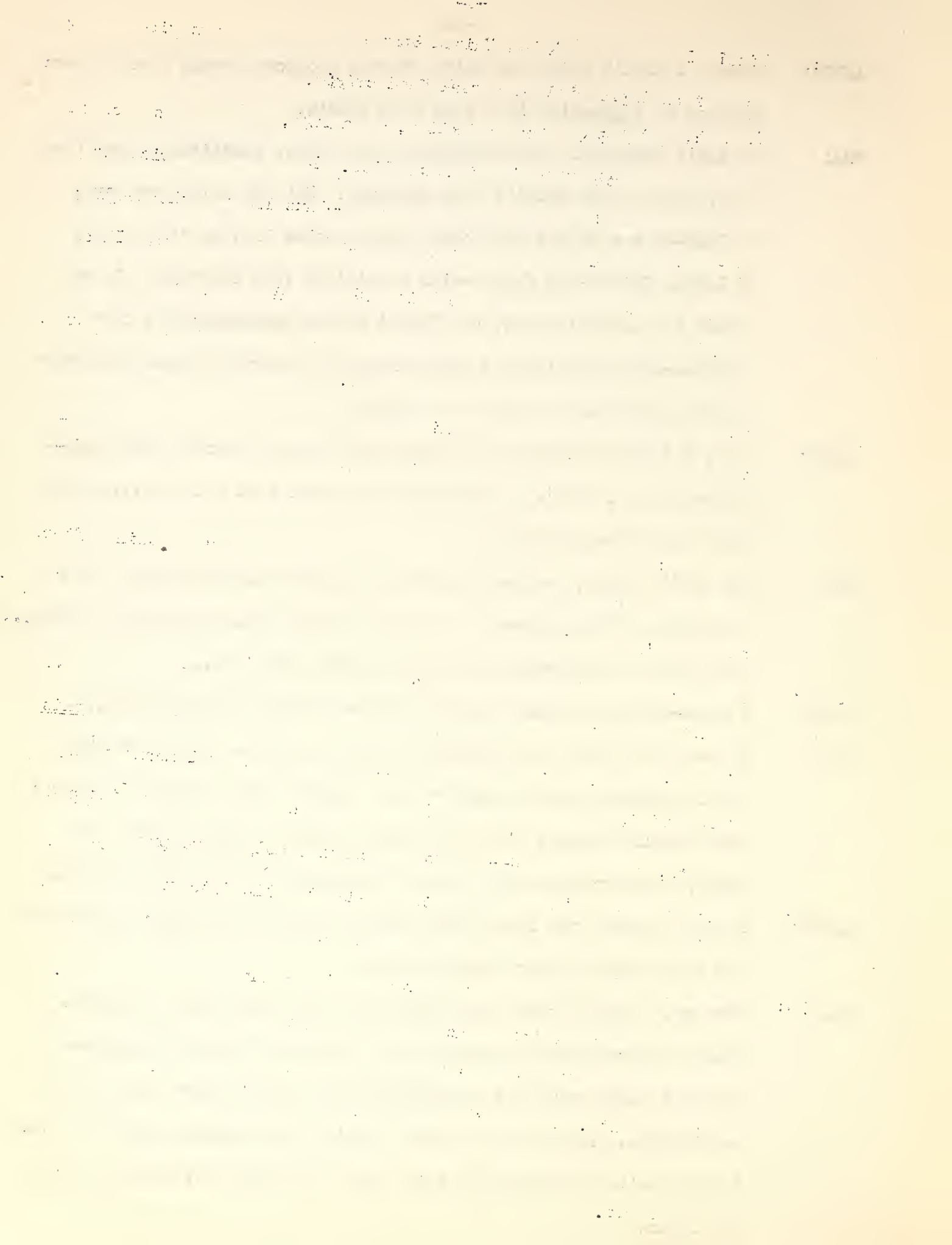
PMA: But don't forget, our meat exports dropped to almost nothing after the middle of the year--so you can't lay the recent shortage to that... and there's a world-wide shortage of fats and oils...

ANNCR: I know--every housewife should continue to save her used fats....

PMA: Well--it's a fine idea although I wasn't going to mention it this time....Anyway, getting back to the subject, what I meant to add was that civilian demand for meat, dairy products, fats and oils and sugar, has increased--and now is considerably above prewar demand.

ANNCR: In other words, the foods most needed to alleviate hunger abroad were the same ones in great demand at home.

PMA: Just so. And for this very reason the government had to step in. Helpful as voluntary measures were, a uniform, direct program was needed to make sure that enough food was saved to meet our foreign commitments. And so in February, new War Food Orders began to be used. I think we're all pretty familiar with the orders pertaining to wheat and flour.



ANNCR: They were more or less restrictive, weren't they?

PMA: Yes...and set-aside orders were especially important in buying lard, meats and dairy products for export. These set-aside orders made it easier for the government to purchase needed amounts of food.

ANNCR: Did the government buy most of the food sent overseas?

PMA: About 51 per cent of all the food exported during the year 1945-1946 was procured by the Production and Marketing Administration. Some 27 per cent went through the regular commercial channels--and the rest was through the military. And before I forget it, I might mention that the Department of Agriculture has announced that after the end of this year, it will Not contract to purchase food for cash-paying foreign governments--with the exception of wheat. In the case of wheat, government purchases will stop as soon as present commitments have been met.

ANNCR: What foods will be affected by this decision?

PMA: Well, since July, the Department of Agriculture has discontinued buying a number of foods. Now, by the end of December, the purchase of fats and oils, canned salmon, canned pilchards, rice, dried eggs, cheese, evaporated milk and dried milk also will be returned to regular commercial channels.

ANNCR: Does this change affect UNRRA any?

PMA: No, the Department of Agriculture will still continue to make purchases for UNRRA. However, it is expected that these purchases which cover only a small number of commodities will be discontinued before the end of March, 1947.

ANNCR: Well, it looks as if the biggest part of our emergency export program is over. Does that mean that the food prospects in Europe are looking up a little?

PMA: That's pretty hard to answer by a flat "yes" or "no". Conditions in Europe have improved since V-E day, of course. This year's harvest is better than that of 1945--but is still 20 per cent below prewar years. Some experts estimate that Europe will have to import 12 million tons of bread grains for 1946-47.

ANNCR: These grains won't be supplied by UNRRA?

PMA: No, UNRRA's program in Europe is finished at the end of this year--only China will continue to receive aid--and that for only 2 or 3 months.

ANNCR: Will the countries needing additional food be able to finance their own imports?

PMA: That, too, remains to be seen...although an UNRRA report to the United Nations expresses fear that they will not be able to do so. The report says that some countries, including Greece, Yugoslavia, Poland, Albania, Czechoslovakia, Italy, Austria--and in the Far East--China, probably will not have available sufficient foreign exchange to import needed foodstuffs and at the same time import raw materials and equipment for full industrial employment.

ANNCR: That sounds as though the world food situation is still critical.

PMA: It is--and the United States may still be called upon for further assistance...

ANNCR: In that case, food conservation in this country is still necessary.

PMA: Indeed it is....As President Truman said in his last report on UNRRA, "The Congress and the people of the United States may be proud of the contribution they have made to the rehabilitation of devastated countries through UNRRA, but we must also realize that the job has not been completed....we must continue our endeavors to conserve our food resources."

(MORE)

FMA: (Cont'd) The President also said that as we have been largely successful in averting world tragedy during the most difficult period after the war, it would--in his words--"be doubly tragic if we were not prepared to meet the less-difficult task ahead. We must be ready with workable plans which will enable the war-devastated countries to face the future with confidence and success."

ANNCR: And I'm sure that all Americans will stand ready to help in any way possible. At least at this Thanksgiving time we will have the satisfaction of knowing that hungry people in Europe and Asia have a little more to be thankful for--due in no small part to our efforts. Our thanks to you, _____, for some of the answers to questions in the minds of the Great American Family. Friends, that was your Production and Marketing Administration representative, _____. YOUR FAMILY'S FOOD will be presented again next week at this same time. This broadcast, a public service feature over station _____, is presented for farm and city listeners in _____. Your announcer has been _____.

